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ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS

AS has been well said many times, the year just closing has been one of transition and shifting values. It has been characterized by profound spiritual as well as economic depression. Our profession, keenly sensitive to both conditions, has been buffeted and beaten upon by gusts and storms of public opinion. It is, therefore, a logical time to consider what the year has really meant to nursing for, as Miss Nightingale so truly said, "Our nursing is a thing which, unless in it we are making progress every year, every month, every week, take my word for it we are going *back*." Nursing is not going back! Rooted in the maternal instinct, founded on human need, it is so many sided that while still offering opportunity to the self effacing just as it did long ago and as it still does, to the sisterhoods, it also offers boundless opportunity to the modern young woman whose urge for self-expression can well be satisfied in this great social service.

The year began with a shortage of students in most of our schools and with a demand for graduates that seemed insatiable. As it closes we know that our better schools have recently admitted larger classes than ever before in times of peace and that the preliminary education of the students is reported to be of a higher type than heretofore. The demand for the more highly qualified nurses seems as insatiable as ever. It seems eternally true, even though trite in the saying, that "there is always room at the top." The year opened with insistent demands, from many quarters, for shorter courses in order to meet a temporary need for large numbers of nurses, a need which would have been more adequately met had we developed a wider extension of our paid visiting nurse service and more hourly nursing. It closes with more than adequate lists of graduate nurses for private duty on many of our registries. Certain phases of public health nursing have suffered from the effects of the economic depression but the essential soundness of the movement is already overcoming the temporary check. Indeed, the needs of that portion of the population which is first affected by any form of industrial or financial disturbance is sufficient argument for a still wider extension

of this work. The Red Cross has consistently carried forward its programme for teaching "Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick" in a well founded belief that *every* woman should have some knowledge applicable to the care of those ill in their own homes, both as a conservation measure and in order that we may not again witness panic fear of epidemic. The legislation enacted in seven states showed a marked tendency toward two-year rather than three-year laws. Some of this legislation has been concerned not only with the training and compulsory registration of nurses but also with the training and licensure of attendants, a distinctly forward looking step, as it will give many excellent workers a dignified status that they have not heretofore enjoyed owing to the lack of a basis for recognition.

The influence of the war on nursing was emphasized by the graduation of the first great class of the Army School of Nursing and again by the opening of the School for Nurses in the U. S. Public Health Service, a service which has cared for thousands of our ex-soldiers.

Among the other significant events of the year stands the organization of a Central School for Nurses under the aegis of the University of Minnesota, the announcement of which was closely followed by that of the opening of the doors of Western Reserve University to nurses. Of significance also as emphasizing the entity of the school for nurses apart from that of the hospital is the carefully organized campaign for an endowment by the Alumnae of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School for Nurses. Other Alumnae Associations, among those to which we have learned to look for leadership, are moving in the same direction. It seems probable that the coming year will show an increasing emphasis on richer curricula and a continued reduction of non-educational duties in many of our schools. Community needs for more nurses prepared to take part in the great campaigns against tuberculosis, mental disorders and venereal disease are bound to have this influence. With this emphasis must come more coöperative movements tending to utilize all the resources educational, clinical, and social of each community, an increasing tendency to actual centralization in such centers as already possess universities and to more coöperation in the utilization of visiting instructors and a reaching out for a participation in all suitable educational resources in the smaller communities.

Let us hope that the coming year may be characterized by many advances but let us not be guilty of so narrow a loyalty to nursing that is can be called "pernicious professionalism"; let us not forget those spiritual values that made our pioneer nurses so truly great; and, in our modern emphasis on science, let us not forget that science

is but the foundation for the beautiful art of nursing which Florence Nightingale called the finest of the fine arts.

RESIGNATION OF MARY M. RIDDLE

IT is with the greatest regret that we announced in the news columns of the December JOURNAL that Mary M. Riddle would resign, on January 1st, her position as superintendent of the Newton Hospital, Newton Lower Falls, Mass. Miss Riddle's work as a superintendent in New England has been analogous to that of Miss Maxwell in New York. She has not only been invaluable in the work of her own hospital for many years, but she has set a high standard for all other hospital superintendents, she has been ready to help and advise and coöperate with others, she has constantly held state association and state board offices, as well as national offices, and her work is so closely woven into the nursing life of New England and of the country at large as to seem inseparable from it. In spite of her long years of service and of the fact that she has justly earned retirement and an easing of the load she has carried, Miss Riddle, in addition to her hospital work is at present serving as treasurer of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING Company; treasurer of the Isabel Hampton Robb Memorial Fund; president of the Massachusetts State Board of Registration of Nurses; and president of the New England Division of the American Nurses' Association. At a meeting of the New England Division last spring, we heard her read a paper which was as fresh and helpful and inspiring as it could have been if written in the fulness of her youth. At that meeting every one leaned upon her judgment and turned to her for suggestions. She is a singularly modest woman and has never pushed herself forward; her various offices have literally sought her because of her ability to fill them.

In our "Who's Who in the Nursing World," published in June, 1921, a list of Miss Riddle's activities is given. However, no one has really seen her or known her who has not visited the Newton Hospital. There in her own circle she is surrounded by the affection and respect of her associates, her students and her trustees. There is a happy home atmosphere, such as one sometimes dreams of for a nursing school as an ideal not often realized, yet the work goes on smoothly, efficiently, well and carefully done, far more carefully done than where fear or compulsion is the ruling motive.

After thirty-five years of executive work, Miss Riddle deserves the rest she is seeking from hospital administration, but we hope she may long serve the nursing profession and the public through her other activities and that we may still turn to her with confidence for a fairness of judgment and poise which no one else gives in just the same way.

JOURNAL OWNERSHIP

SEE no reason why I should help make money for those nurses" was the way a friend of the JOURNAL was answered by a non-subscribing nurse whose subscription was sought! This incident and discussions of a similar nature call for a repetition of the statement of the JOURNAL'S ownership that has been made so many times. The JOURNAL *is not a commercial enterprise* and its aim is not that of making money for any nurse or group of nurses. THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING is owned by the American Nurses' Association. Its business is conducted by means of a legally constituted American Journal of Nursing Company, with Directors elected by the Board of the American Nurses' Association and all stock held by the American Nurses' Association. Ownership is, therefore, participated in by every member of the American Nurses' Association.

The aims of the JOURNAL are distinctly professional and the function of its editors is that of collecting, interpreting, and disseminating information regarding nursing to the public at large and to nurses in particular. The editors receive salaries which are fixed by the Board (but no percentage, bonus, dividends or other "extras"), and the members of the Board serve without compensation of any kind. (Who was it said that "Leadership is not a reward but a job?"). Contributors, who may or may not be nurses, receive payment for original articles accepted for the JOURNAL'S exclusive use. The income derived from subscriptions and advertising is applied to the actual production of the JOURNAL. In the event that the income exceeds the cost of production dividends are paid to the owner, The American Nurses' Association. The JOURNAL has for many years been self supporting and has sometimes paid dividends, but it has not now, for many months, contributed anything to the treasury of the Association because of the high cost of production. We cannot too often repeat to the members of the American Nurses' Association that the JOURNAL is *your* Journal,—it endeavors to express to the world the aspirations and achievements of nurses. For these reasons, the editors are constantly in deed of suggestions for and, if need be, criticisms of, its material. Only in proportion as we receive professional and financial support from you, our principal source, can we properly express to the world the true spirit of American nursing.

A HISTORY OF THE RED CROSS NURSING SERVICE

NURSES will be interested to know that the early appearance of this long heralded book is promised. It is in reality only a little over two years since it was actually begun, but the time seems longer and many are asking when and where it may be obtained. It has

been Miss Noyes' wish that it might be published by the time of the Seattle meeting. It now seems as if this might be true, at least for the first volume. The History will appear in two volumes of excellent style and the table of contents will show after the chapter titles the names of the authors, Miss Dock and Miss Pickett, with collaborators. The subject material has been treated as fully as possible within the space allowed. The pages will be thickly covered with documentary evidence, always of an interesting and often of a thrilling character. The authors have tried, to the best of their ability, to deal truthfully and in a candid open spirit with the historical material. They have tried not to write a conventional, partisan hued book, but rather to avoid sentimentality and triteness. They hope and modestly believe that the book will be a record of interest and importance now, and of great value in years to come, an inestimable boon to all who have papers to write or talks to give, and an armory for those who enter upon contests over nursing affairs. It is believed that the price will be moderate enough to enable every one to possess a copy.

DR. BEARD—AN ADVOCATE

WHO among us can begin to evaluate the generous, thoughtful, and increasingly helpful attitude of that growing number of physicians who, through the expression of opinions based on discriminating study, unfailingly support the efforts of nurses to enlarge the scope of their usefulness in the work of the world. Of this distinguished company is Dr. Richard Olding Beard, of the University of Minnesota, who has repeatedly put himself on record, through the spoken and the written word in support of the highest ideals of nurses. For many years an advocate of full professional status for the nurse, with all that the phrase connotes of sound preparation for a life of service, it is with the deepest satisfaction we learn that Dr. Beard has prepared an article to be called, we understand, "Fair Play for the Trained Nurse," which will appear in the February issue of the *Pictorial Review*. In giving the time necessary to the preparation of such an article, in lending to the movement for better nursing the result of his long and careful thinking on this whole matter to the public, Dr. Beard has again added to a debt of gratitude we can hope to repay but by a closer approximation as a profession, to the high level he believes us capable of attaining.

A MEDICAL JOURNAL'S OPINION

THE editorial page of *Southern Medicine and Surgery* is headed by the following quotation from Francis Bacon: "Read not to contradict and confute nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider." The editorial for

October on "Sub Nurses" is so generous and yet judicial in its effort to evaluate the good—and the bad—in nursing, that we draw our readers' attention to it in the spirit of the quotation. The writer thoughtfully analyzes present day tendencies in general and in nursing in particular. Of nurses, he says there are those who "Whether they work 8 hours or 24, give the case in hand the best service they possibly can, and ever strive to do more, while others would render their patients a service by getting out of the way." (We hope he believes there are few of the latter!) And further, "The world may need more nurses but it wants the best it can get." "Threatened nurses' unions could not possibly benefit any but the inferior by compelling unmerited recognition." He has little that is good to say of the three year course as conducted in those hospitals where the need of service to the hospital obscures the obligation to educate the student nurse. The writer closes with the statement that "If the law is to say who may nurse and who may not then the law should establish uniform methods and standards for training schools, and the determining factor for granting nurses recognition should be personal capacity—the actual credits earned rather than the years served."

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

THE Hospital Association of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia League of Nursing Education appointed a joint committee to make plans for a school for the teaching of Preliminary Courses in Nursing Education in Philadelphia.

The plan submitted provides for the following:

That the school be sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania, financed by the above named associations; that its object be the teaching in one place, the preliminary course in nursing education, now being taught in fifty separate training schools in Philadelphia and vicinity; that the curriculum as prepared by the National League of Nursing Education be adopted; that the subjects be taught by qualified instructors now teaching in the Philadelphia Training Schools for Nurses.

The Committee recommends that this plan be put into effect February 1, 1922, and if successful, that it be continued for those students entering the training schools in September.

It is hoped that all hospitals will accept this opportunity to give the same preliminary course of instruction to their students, understanding, of course, that it is only an experiment.